

CRAWDOOD

# JFK CASE: THE PLOT THICKENS

by Assassination Information Bureau

On November 9, 1963, Miami police informant William Somersett secretly recorded an incredible conversation he had with a man who described the John Kennedy murder two weeks before it happened:

"Well, how in the hell do you figure would be the best way to get him?"

"From an office building with a high-powered rifle. . . ."

"You think he knows he is a marked man?"

"Sure he does."

"They are really going to kill him?"

"Oh yeah, it is in the working. Brown himself, Brown is just as likely to get him as anybody. . . ."

The subject is Joseph Adams Milteer, active member of the ultra-right National States Rights Party. He goes on to say, "They wouldn't leave any step unturned here, no way. They will pick somebody within hours afterwards, if anything like that would happen, just to throw the public off."

Thirteen days later, John Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas. The man arrested and charged with the murder, Lee Oswald, insisted upon his innocence until he himself was bumped off.

The remarkable conversation between Somersett and Milteer had been promptly reported to the FBI. Their files state that on November 10, the Bureau received information that "J.A. Milteer made a statement that plans were in the making to kill President J.F. KENNEDY at some future date; that MILTEER suggested one JACK BROWN of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the man who could do the job, and that he (MILTEER) would be willing to help. MILTEER reportedly said that . . . the job could be done from an office . . . using a high-powered rifle." The report adds that the Secret Service was made aware of this scenario.

Was there any action or investigation prompted by this explicit threat? None. John Kennedy was allowed to die in Dallas. The Secret Service checked its files of threats against the President *only for the Dallas-Fort Worth area*. The Secret Service must have assumed, therefore, that no self-respecting assassin would travel from beyond Dallas to do the job.

The grim plot thickens.

Somersett has stated that on the morning of the assassination itself, Milteer called him to say he was in Dallas and, referring to the President, said, "I don't think you will ever see your boy in Miami again." John Kennedy had just spoken in Miami.



Somersett met with Milteer the following day, November 23, in Jacksonville, Fla. The FBI report of this meeting says Milteer "was very jubilant over the death of President KENNEDY. . . . MILTEER stated, 'Everything ran true to form. I guess you thought I was kidding you when I said he would be killed from a window with a high-powered rifle.' When questioned as to whether he was guessing when he originally made the threat regarding President Kennedy, MILTEER is quoted as saying, 'I don't do any guessing.'"

On the morning of November 24, 1963 in Columbia, S.C., Milteer advised (quoting from a recently declassified FBI document) "that they did not have to worry about LEE HARVEY OSWALD because he 'doesn't know anything' and that the 'right wing' is in the clear. MILTEER further related that 'the patriots have outsmarted the communists and had infiltrated the communist group in order that they (communists) could carry out the plan without the right wingers becoming involved.'"

The FBI, in its relentless pursuit of the truth, finally decided it should have a chat with, but not arrest, J.A. Milteer. On November 27, he denied to Hoover's G-Men that he had ever talked of threats upon the President's life. Although Milteer's words were recorded on a tape that was in the possession of the Miami police, his blanket denial was good enough for the FBI. They dropped the whole matter.

Milteer's denials were not good enough for the Miami police. They'd responded quite seriously to his initial reports, canceling the Presidential motorcade in that city scheduled for November 19, 1963.) After watching their valuable evidence ignored or suppressed, the Miami

police finally played their tape publicly for journalists and newsmen on February 2, 1967. Needless to say, Milteer's story fared as poorly in the hands of the national media as it did with the government.

That the Milteer tape had not one iota of effect on events before, during and after November 22, 1963 is extraordinary. That there were other Presidential threats involving the National States Rights Party that were equally ignored or suppressed invites disbelief.

A report dated November 15, 1963 from the San Antonio Secret Service has the FBI talking to a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The Klansman said, "A militant group of the National States Rights Party plans to assassinate the President. . . ." Again, the inference is that the Secret Service did not consider any threats coming from outside the Dallas area to be a real danger to the President.

And if that is not enough, there is always the FBI report dated December 4, 1963 from Atlanta. This document summarizes a conversation held in the spring of 1963 between Dr. Stanley L. Drennan, "active in the NSRP" in California, and Captain Robert K. Brown, mercenary *par excellence* and currently publisher of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine. According to this report, Drennan said, "What the organization needed was a group of young men to get rid of Kennedy, the Cabinet, all members of *Americans for Democratic Action*, and maybe 10,000 other people. BROWN stated that he considered the remark as being 'crackpot'; however, as DRENNAN continued the conversation, he gained the impression that DRENNAN may have been propositioning him on this matter."

This lead, like J.A. Milteer, vanished into the maw of the Warren Commission without a mention. ■